Supreme Court Judgement in Peerless case

1082. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government have been drawn to the Supreme ourt Judgement report which appeared in the Business Standard dated 23rd January, 1987; and

(b) whether government have taken any action on the various criticisms and suggestions made by the Supreme ourt in its judgement, and if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Government have seen the news report which appeared in the Business Standard dated January 23, 1987 relating to the judgement of the Supreme Court in respect of Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Limited, Calcutta.

Reserve Bank of India has been asked to study the implications of the judgement of the Supreme Court and initiate such action as is considered necessary in the light of the judgement and the observations made therein.

Doordarshan serial 'Ramayana'

1083. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some foreign countries have approached the Government of India to purchase television serial 'Ramayana' which is now being telecast by the Delhi Doordarshan; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No, Sir. The foreign telecast rights in respect of this serial do not vest in Doordarshan.

(b) Does not arise.

Properties valued more than Rs. 10 lakh acquired by government

1084. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have ecquired properties which were valued more than Rs. 10 lakhs in four metropolitan cities during the last three months; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is being laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix CXLI, Annexure No. 38].

Second T.V. Channel

1985. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the programmes telecast by the country's second T.V. channel are either leftovers, rejects or repeats;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no interesting serial, comedy or documentary is telecast on the second channel; and

(c) if so, what efforts are being made by the Government to make this channel also an interesting one?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise. However, pro-

gramme content and formats are constantly reviewed and changes made so as to sustain viewers' interest.

Merger of foreign branches of nationalised banks

1086. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal is under consideration of Government for the amalgamation of foreign branches of Indian Nationalised Banks by the creation of a single bank to handle all foreign operations; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Utilisation of PL-480 funds

1087. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact than an agreement has been signed with the United States Government regarding utilisation of funds presently held in deposits with Indian Banks arising out of PL-480 funds; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) An agreement was signed between India and USA on 7th Jan, 1987 for the setting up of a US-India Rupee Fund for Educational, Cultural and Scientific Cooperation. The initial capital of this Fund is approximately Rs. 127.5 crores. This amount has been provided from the interest bearing rupee holdings of the US Government presently with certain US Commercial Banks in India. The life of the Fund is 10 years. During this period the entire Fund is expected to be committed for mutually agreed collaborative activities between two Governments.

Resource mobilisation through public deposits by government undertakings

1088. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the present trend of government owned companies mobilising public deposits in big way which is effecting the growth of deposits in nationalised banks; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Reserve Bank of India to increase public deposits in the nationalised banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Raids conducted on the premises of senior government officials

1089. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of senior Government officials whose premises were raided during last year on account of possessing assets disproportionate to their known sources of income;

(b) the number of persons against whom cases were registered; and

(c) the value of goods seized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) During the period 1.1.1986 to 31.10.1986 the Income Tax Department conducted searches at the